



2017 Utah Poet Laureate Candidate Guidelines

Application instructions can be found at the end of this document. Please read the entire document before applying.

The Utah Poet Laureate is a Governor-appointed advocate for literature and the arts throughout the state who presents in communities, schools, libraries, and public events. The position was established in 1997.

HISTORY OF UTAH'S POET LAUREATE

David Lee, St. George
Appointed by Gov. Michael Leavitt
January 1997 to January 2003

Kenneth W. Brewer, Logan
Appointed by Gov. Michael Leavitt
January 2003 to March 2006

Katharine Coles, Salt Lake City
Appointed by Gov. Jon Huntsman, Jr.
March 2006 to April 2012

Lance Larsen, Springville
Appointed by Gov. Gary R. Herbert
April 2012 to April 2017

SELECTION CRITERIA

To be eligible, a candidate must:

- Be a legal, full-time Utah resident for at least three years and presently reside in Utah.

- Have at least one collection of poetry published by independent publishers (self-publication or books published by organizations to promote the work of their own membership do not qualify).
- Have a record of public service to Utah's literary community, including activities such as organizing literary events, serving on volunteer boards and panels, and fundraising for literary organizations.
- Be adept at presenting poetry to a range of ages and abilities.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Utah Division of Arts & Museums seeks submissions, requesting:

- Résumé or CV
- List of publications and readings
- Up to ten pages of sample work
- Link to a video (up to five minutes) of candidate presenting poetry
- One-page response to these two questions: "What is your vision of the role of a Poet Laureate?" and "Why would you like to be selected as the Utah Poet Laureate?"

A committee composed of members of Utah's literary community will evaluate each candidate. The committee and the Utah Division of Arts & Museums recommend three names to the Governor. The Governor names the Utah Poet Laureate, and the Poet Laureate serves a four-year appointment.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Poet Laureate is the poet named by the Governor of Utah to represent the state's literary community as an emissary for poetry and creative writing for a term of four years.

- Historically, the Poet Laureate makes six to ten appearances per year, with attention to rural and underserved communities.
- The Poet Laureate will present readings and/or workshops at the Utah Original Writing Competition awards event, Mountain West Arts Conference, and Poetry Out Loud state finals, subject to availability. The Poet Laureate will also act as the leading public advocate for the literary arts in Utah.

- The Poet Laureate will be available for invitation by schools, libraries, colleges, universities, writers' organizations, etc., to speak at various functions. Requests are honored based on the nature of the request and the availability of the Poet Laureate. The fee for an appearance is \$400. For nonprofit organizations hosting a public event or for select organizations who serve the public (such as teacher organizations), Utah Division of Arts & Museums will pay half the fee (\$200). Other organizations pay the full \$400 fee. UDAM covers the cost of travel and lodging (if more than 100 miles round-trip). In-kind lodging, if available, can be used to offset cash amount owed by an organization.
- The Poet Laureate will maintain his or her own schedule, notifying UDAM staff of any engagements for record-keeping purposes. UDAM will make honorarium payments and travel reimbursements quarterly.
- During the term of service, the Poet Laureate will undertake a project of his or her own choosing that promotes poetry throughout the state.
- The Poet Laureate will submit a brief written report to UDAM at the end of each fiscal year.
- The Poet Laureate's term of office will run for four years. At the end of the term, UDAM will assemble a new selection committee, and recommendations will be forwarded to the Governor.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The application form can be found online at this link to the UDAM grants portal:

<https://utahdcc.secure.force.com/portal/>

If you aren't already a user of our grants portal, please click on "New User" to quickly be set up with an account.

Once you're logged in, there will be a number of opportunities listed. Please click on "FY17 Utah Poet Laureate Application" to begin.

The deadline for applying is March 3, 2017 at 5 p.m. MST.

Questions? Contact Alyssa Hickman Grove at agrove@utah.gov or 801.236.7548.